

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria

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Open the Door to Success: Feng Shui Tips for Your Career Area

In Feng Shui, the front entrance is one of the most important areas of your home. It is where Ch'i—the vital life-force energy—enters your living space and where you welcome guests and opportunities into your life. In the Feng Shui Bagua, the entrance is often associated with the Career Area, Knowledge Area, or Helpful People Area, and in some U-shaped homes it may align with the Center of the home. Whatever area it occupies becomes especially powerful because it is activated by the flow of energy entering through the front door.

In our home, the entrance enhances the Career Area of the Bagua. Located in the front center section of the home, this area includes both our foyer and home office. Whether your Career Area contains an office, hallway, living space, or another room, making intentional Feng Shui enhancements there can help support your professional goals, attract new opportunities, and bring greater enjoyment and fulfillment to your work life.

By enhancing the Career area of the Bagua, you will help renewed energy lead you to making positive changes in a current job, advancing to a more successful career, seeking volunteer or community service opportunities, pursuing meaningful activities in your retirement, or just exploring your life's purpose. In other words, finding a more satisfying, conscious, and creative path for yourself.

I fortunately learned about Feng Shui at the end of my career as an Educational Administrator. The enhancements I made helped my husband and I finish our careers well and allow us to enjoy fulfilling retirement activities. I became a Feng Shui practitioner, offering home and business consultations, write this column, and recently had my book published. My husband enjoys playing his trumpet in two bands, and does numerous IT volunteer work. In Feng Shui we call it "Following Your Bliss,"

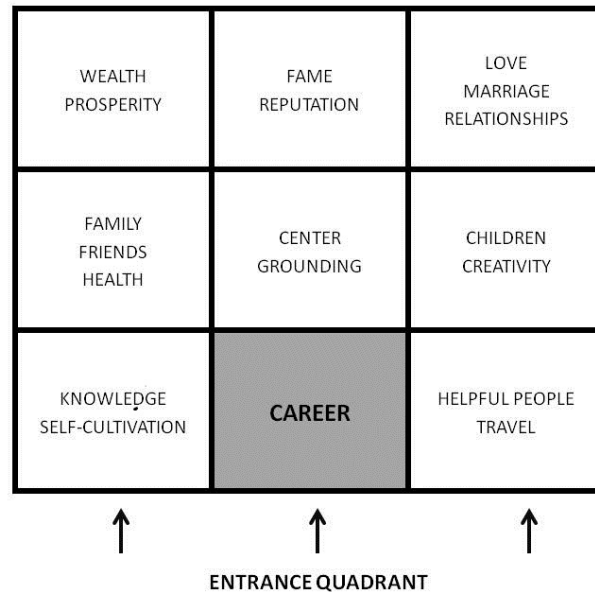
What excites you in life? What do you see yourself doing more of? Following your bliss means finding time for what excites and nourishes you.

One of the most powerful and important tools in Feng Shui is the Bagua, represented as a grid of eight sectors, with the center for grounding. The Bagua comes from the Chinese philosophy, "The I Ching," In the "I Ching" the Career area of your home or business is called "deep water" as it refers to going deep within yourself to discover your true bliss, and emerging buoyant. The element for the Career area is Water, and the colors are black or very dark.

Since this is in the entrance quadrant of your environment, the key is to invite in and keep the Ch'i, the vital energy, flowing through your home.

The enhancements you make using the Feng Shui Bagua will help you not only in your career but can also help you in discovering joyful hobbies.

The Career area is located in the front of your home/office/business.



If your Career area is your front entrance, like ours, make sure that when you open the door you are greeted with a clean and inviting space. Then bring in the Water element to encourage the flow of Career energy.

Interior Enhancements for the Career Area of Your Home or Business

(Choose One or More)

- Begin by decluttering the space.
- Install art depicting moving water (such as streams, ponds, rivers, or oceans). This is a great location for a small fountain or aquarium.
- Add decorator items or furniture in black or very dark colors or have asymmetrical shapes.
- Hang or place mirrors and/or display glass/or crystal items, such as a crystal vase or a glass table. A round faceted crystal hanging from the ceiling helps the energy flow in small, confined spaces.
- Display career images and symbols (books or logos from your business or those you aspire to,) if your space allows it. A vision board can be a useful addition here to help you realize your goals.

- At the entry of my home, which is in the Career area of the Bagua, I hung a large mirror on one side of the door that reflects my father's painting of the Mediterranean Sea. I also placed a small fountain on a glass table with a glass holder for my husband and my business cards.

Exterior Enhancements if Your Career Area is also the Front Entrance of Your Home or Business (Choose One or More)

- Ensure that your front walk is clutter free and that there are no dead or dying plants visible.
- Activate the Water element by installing a water feature, such as a fountain with water flowing toward the house, to keep the energy flowing inward, or install a 360-degree bubbling fountain close by. A fountain with the water flowing away from the house symbolizes the Ch'i flowing out. This is also a good place for a small pond if it is kept clean and circulating.
- Use wind chimes to invite the Ch'i to enter, plant colorful healthy flowers along the path (curved if possible) to your door, and place two greeters in the form of plants or statuary on either side of the door. An easy fix is to replace an old welcome mat with a new, vibrant one.

Additional Enhancement Fixes:

What if I'm missing the Career Area?

- If your career area is missing from your floor plan, I recommend anchoring this area with fountains, or birdbaths. The key is to complete the space and create a welcoming environment. More detailed, specific instructions are in Chapter 6 of my book.

What if my front door opens to stairs going up or down?

- Stairs can be tricky because they can symbolize the Ch'i flowing out of your home. This can be fixed by placing a mirror above your front door to reflect the energy back in, or at the bottom of the stairs going down.

Affirmations:

In Feng Shui, intent plays a significant role in enhancing any area of your home or business. That's why all enhancements need to be made with intentionality; written or stated affirmations which are expressed as if they are already happening are very important. Examples of affirmations for the Career in our retirement area:

"My career is fulfilling, inspiring, and lucrative," "I grow and prosper by following my bliss," "I attract many positive opportunities and circumstances."

Feng Shui at work:

A client recently moved into an apartment. She owns her own business and was having trouble finding a suitable workspace. I advised her to strengthen the Career area of her home. Typical of apartment complexes, each door looked alike, so she placed two large black, shiny pots on either side of her front door with tall red plants. This created a striking entrance, allowing the Ch'i to find her. Inside, she hung a mirror and art representing ocean waves flowing inward and placed her affirmations in a glass bowl. Since implementing these changes, she successfully located a beautiful new workspace that she moved into within a month. Her business has taken off!

Another client was stuck in an unsatisfying career. She realized that she had been neglecting the dying plants by her front door. Her house was telling her to remove the dying plants, replace them with colorful flowers, and hang a beautiful plant in a red metal holder. Her energy increased as her career opportunities. She took a job at another firm, received a promotion, and is thriving. Small changes can make a big difference.

Making a few simple changes within your home can have an immediate and powerful effect. Whether in retirement or in your career, be prepared to have doors of opportunity open that were closed before – perhaps even opportunities that are completely different from the ones you expected. You could be very pleasantly surprised as you follow your bliss.

For questions or home consultations email at mtmccull@aol.com and put “Feng Shui” on the subject line, or visit my website at www.fengshuibymaria.com, (where you can read past columns), or Facebook “Feng Shui by Maria”, where I post pictures as examples to enhancements.

My book (which I call a Feng Shui consultation in a book) is available for purchase on my website, Bookshop Benicia, and Benicia Main Street.

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* **Check out my BLOG** – Just go to the website and click on “Blog”: You can view many pictures and, I will respond to your questions quickly.

Until then... Blessings!

Maria McCullough is the owner / founder of *Feng Shui by Maria* (www.fengshuibymaria.com) and is a speaker and educator with over 20 years of experience, and now author of the book, *“Empower Your Life Through Feng Shui – An Easy Eight Step Guide to achieving Your Goals.”* She is a graduate of the Western School of Feng Shui and has personally trained with Terah Kathryn Collins, founder of the Western School of Feng Shui, specializing in Essential Feng Shui® and author of numerous books. Maria specializes in residential, landscape and business consultations. She offers virtual consultations nationally and internationally, as well as in person locally.